LOCAL AUTO RACING NOTEBOOK

Ventura grad Krabill wins at Bakersfield

By Rich Romine
rromine@VenturaCountyStar.com

Kris Krabill, a 1994 graduate of Ventura High, won the 15th annual California Hot Reunion at Auto Club Famoso Raceway in Bakersfield on Oct. 8.

Krabill of Orange defeated Lee Paul Jennings.

Krabill was behind the wheel of Gary Turner's "Pedaler" Arrow Nostalgia Funny Car.

Krabill's next race will be the eighth Fuel and Gas Finals Nov. 3-5 at Bakersfield.

Earlier in the season, Krabill was victorious at won his first Goodguys series race at Pomona.

Sprint cars return: Luis Espinoza and the Ventura Racing Association sprint cars will be back in action Saturday night at Ventura Raceway.

Espinoza leads the series with 18,165 points. Greg Taylor is second with 16,835 points followed by Jimmy Crawford (16,536), Kevin Kierce (15,325) and Chris Wakim (13,955).

Also racing will be the dwarf cars, VRA/USAC Ford Focus midgets, junior focus midgets, mini dwarf cars and junior midgets. Chuck Lippert and Brian Saxton are battling for the pro dwarf car championship. Ed Niedzwiecki and Johhny Lynch will resume their senior dwarf car battle for the title. Robby Josett and Johnathon Henry are battling for the first Junior Focus championship. In junior midgets, Christian Copley, Chris Olson and Charlie Butcher are vying for the VRA championship.

Gates open at 3:30 p.m. and racing starts at 5.

Admission prices are $14 for adults, $11 for seniors, military and juniors with photo identification and children 7-12 are $5. Children 6 and under are free.

Crawford won the VRA/Bandit Gram Slam Series with 410 points. Kierce was second with 408, followed by Taylor (396), Espinoza (388) and Chris Wakim (378). Danny Sheridan won the final race at Santa Maria. Wakim won the Ventura race. Michael Trimble won the Bakersfield race and Davey Pombo won the second race at Santa Maria.

Information: Ventura Raceway at 985-5433 or http://www.venturaraceway.com.

Crow flies: Rick Crow of Simi Valley dedicated his Justice Brothers Pure Stocks Irwindale Speedway championship to anyone whose family has been impacted by cancer and his mother, who lost her battle to cancer in 1989.

Crow drove his "Pink" Cancer Awareness 1972 Chevelle to 11 feature wins, including nine in a row, with three figure-8 victories. Crow also won both the oval and figure-8 main events three times on the same night.

Crow broke the oval and figure track records this season by claiming the championship with 14 top-three finishes.

Crow's effort is a family affair. His wife Cherilyne is a spotter, while daughter Lacee with sons Garrett and Joey help crew the car.

Crow is nicknamed "The Pink Panther."

Around the tracks: Cory Kruseman of Ventura will race Saturday in the USAC/CRA sprint car series at Perris Auto Speedway. Tonight and Saturday will be the NASCAR Toyota All-Star Showdown at Irwindale. Erock Darnell, Dave Gilliland, Justin Diercks, Burney Lamar, Ryan Moore, Augie Vidovich and Robert Richardson II are among the top drivers this weekend.

Information: http://www.irwindalespeedway.com.

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